NPA of UTI against Essar group

222. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Essar group account for 30 per cent of UTI non-performing assets other than US-64;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and since when it has became MPA; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover that amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Involvement of Director, NCRB in Smuggling

223. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs official raided in August, 2001, the residence and farm house of Director of National Crime Records Bureau in connection with the multi-crore smuggling racket;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incriminating documents/disproportionate assets recovered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The residence of Shri Harish Kumar, the then Director, National Crime Records Bureau and some other places were searched by officers of Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in August, 2001 in connection with seizure of consignments consisting of misdeclared aluminium and copper scrap as well as undeclared metals, namely, tin ingots and prime nickel cathodes, totally valued at Rs.9.23 crores (approx.) and involving estimated customs duty evasion of Rs.1.4 crores (approx.) imported by M/s. Suren International Ltd., in which the wife and other relatives of Shri Harish Kumar are directors. No incriminating documents including documents relating to assets were recovered from the residence of Shri Harish Kumar. However, search of a godown of M/s. Suren International Ltd. at Vasant

Kunj, Mahipalpur Road, New Delhi led to the recovery of tin ingots and nickel square plates valued at Rs.5.41 crores (approx.) Further, search of a farmhouse of one Dr. Hans Nagar at Gadaipur, Mehrauli led to the recovery of incriminating documents including documents relating to assets owned by the family members of Shri Harish Kumar.

Shortage of Coins

224. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA" Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of coins in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet out this shortage;

(c) whether coins are being imported also; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not getting them minted indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, there are reports of shortage of coins in certain parts of the country.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken a number of steps to address the problem of shortage of coins, which *inter-alia* include the following:—

(i) The India Government Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad have been modernised.

(ii) The bank note of Rs. 5 denomination has been reintroduced during the current year to meet the shortage of Rs.5 coins.

(iii) The Regional Offices of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are regularly supplying the coins to their Currency Chests to ensure equitable distribution of coins in the country.

(iv) The coins in denomination of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5 are also being imported to meet the gap between the demand and supply of coins in the country.

(d) The four India Government Mints currently have an aggregate capacity to produce only about 3700 million pieces of coins per year as against an average demand for 8000 million pieces per year. In order to bridge the gap